

Cornfield Flowers Project



Species Cards



Wild pansy (*Viola tricolor*)

Near Threatened

Typically larger and more colourful flowers than the much commoner Field pansy

Has experienced a widespread decline since 1960s

REASONS FOR DECLINE:

Nitrogen application; herbicides;
modern competitive crop varieties

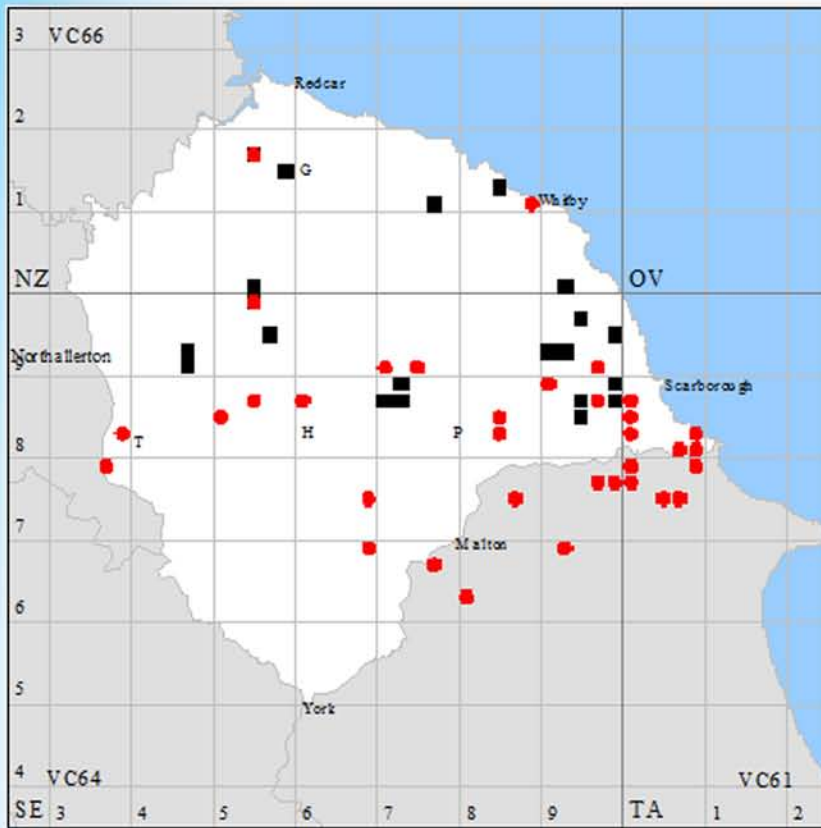
Our Wild pansy experience...

Wild pansy was said by Eva Crackles in *Flora of the East Riding of Yorkshire* to be infrequent, her map showing its distribution to be to the south and centre of the East Riding and infrequent on the high Wolds. Nan Sykes in *Wild Plants and their Habitats in the North York Moors* maps only nineteen sites and calls it 'rare'. We frequently find it during our surveys, perhaps because having found Field pansy we search all the more for Wild pansy, finding it because it is usually larger than Field pansy and the upper petals are more often blue or having strong blue patches.

Whilst Wild Pansy is thought to grow more on acidic soils, the largest site we have ever found was on the high Wolds, albeit in the valley bottom, at South Fordon Farm where it covered more than three acres with thousands of plants, many of them very large and completely blue.

Where Wild and Field pansy grow together they occasionally produce hybrids. Eva Crackles lists hybrids at Wintringham in 1958 and at Octon Grange in 1977. We have also found them at Glebe Farm, Potter Brompton, in 2010.

Distribution in north-east Yorkshire: Wild pansy (*Viola tricolor*)



Key

● Post-2000 records
(inc. CFP introductions)

■ Pre-2000 records

G: Guisborough T: Thirsk

H: Helmsley P: Pickering

Data: BSBI, 2014 Maps produced by MapMate®

Key Facts - Wild pansy (*Viola tricolor*)

- Said to prefer acidic sandy soils, but can be strong on chalk in our area
- Autumn and spring germinating
- Petals usually display a wider variety of colours than Field pansy, ranging from all blue to all yellow/cream
- Will occasionally hybridise with Field pansy, producing flower characters somewhere between the two

UK Conservation Designations

The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain (2006) designates all UK wildflowers by their rarity, and hence conservation importance, in the following order:

Extinct → Extinct in the wild → Critically Endangered → Endangered
 Vulnerable → Near Threatened → Least Concern

The Cornfield Flowers Project is spearheaded by the Carstairs Countryside Trust, Ryedale Folk Museum, North Yorkshire Moors Association and North York Moors National Park Authority. It has a demonstration field and nursery at Ryedale Folk Museum and a working arable field at Silpho, near Scarborough. It is supported by the North York Moors National Park Sustainable Development Fund, North York Moors Coast & Hills LEADER Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

